

Some considerations about *Casilda antophilaria* (HÜBNER, [1813]) and *C. consecraria* (STAUDINGER, 1871)

(Lepidoptera, Geometridae)

by

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Abstract: In this short note on *Casilda antophilaria* and *C. consecraria* the author outlines and updates distributions and makes some considerations about *rosearia*, probably only a colour form of *C. antophilaria*.

Riassunto: Vengono fatte alcune brevi considerazioni sulle specie *consecraria* e *antophilaria* al genere *Casilda* e su alcune forme di colore di quest'ultima specie. Si esprimono dubbi circa la validità di ssp. *rosearia* e si propone di considerare anche questa ultima una variante di colore.

Introduction

Last year I had some material collected by PROLA in Puglia (southern Italy) for determination. Among this material there were some specimens belonging to the genus *Casilda* (genus created in 1952 by AGENJO who splitted it from the previous genus *Rhodometra* MEYRICK, 1892 on the basis of differences in the genitalia).

Type species of *Casilda* is *Sterrhia consecraria* STAUDINGER, 1871 established as a distinct species from *antophilaria* HÜBNER, [1813] by SUTTON [1964].

SUTTON's paper is an interesting work on the South Caspian insect fauna with a "discussion of *Rhodometra antophilaria* (HÜBNER) and *R. consecraria* (STAUDINGER) stat.n.", in which he considers all known forms and subspecies of *antophilaria* and decides to raise *consecraria* to species rank, considered prior to be a subspecies of *antophilaria*.

According to SUTTON [1964] *C. antophilaria* includes a subspecies: *rosearia* TREITSCHKE, 1828, and a number of sympatric colour variants (*albidaria*, *albipunctaria*, *subsaccharia*, *subrosearia*). The status of ssp. *elvira* remains doubtful since its distribution lies well outside the known range of the species, perhaps due to an error of locality (PROUT, 1912).

C. consecraria has the following colour forms: *excaecaria*, *intermediaria*, *parallelaria* (SUTTON, [1964]).

According to SUTTON *C. antophilaria* ranges in "Sarepta, Lower Volga basin, Uralsk, Ili Kudja and Transcaspia in S. Russia, South Caspian, Inner Anatolia" and Greece, Corfu and Istanbul as *rosearia* (TREITSCHKE, 1828) and in Spain as *elvira* (THIERRY-MIEG, 1911).

C. consecraria is known from Spain, southern France, Corsica, Sardinia, the Balkans, Jerusalem, Israel, Egypt, Iraq, Cyrenaica and along the southern border of the Mediterranean westwards to the Atlantic coast. This species is replaced to the north-east by *C. antophilaria*.

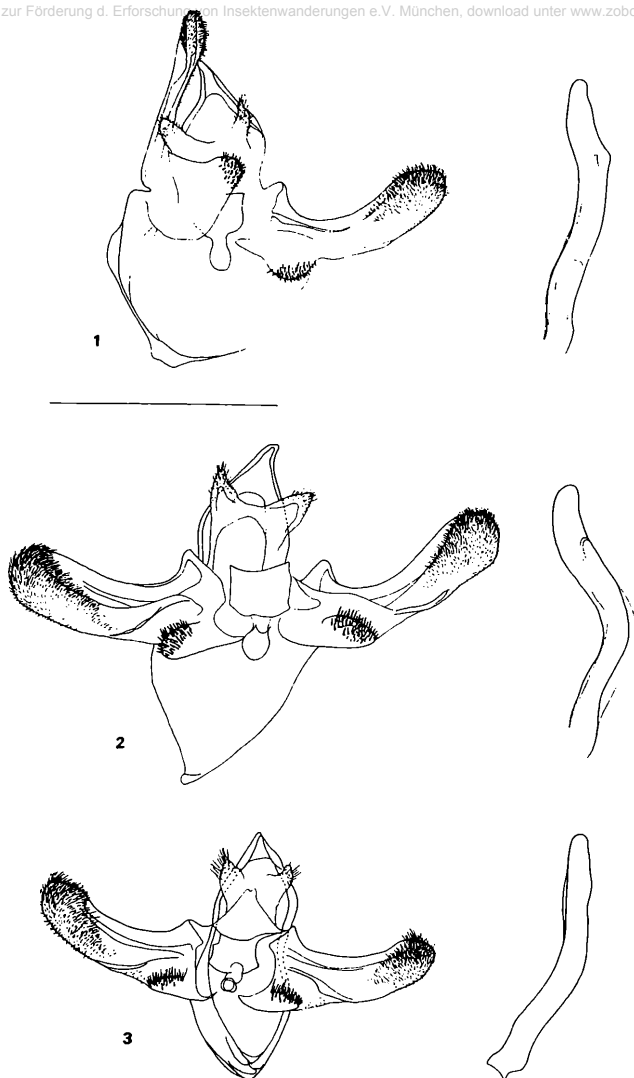


Fig. 1-3: Male genitalia of *Casilda* spp. 1) *C. antophilaria* f. *subrosearia*, Puglia, S. Maria di Leuca, 10.IX.1988, prep. V. RAINERI n. 1484; 2) *C. antophilaria* f. *rosearia*, same locality and date, prep. V. RAINERI n. 1464; 3) *C. consecraria*, Sicilia, Tore Vendicari, 28.III.1989, prep. V. RAINERI n. 945. (Scale bar 1 mm).

They seem in fact to be allopatric species, particularly if one considers that the only known form of *C. antophilaria* ssp. *elvira* may have been described from Spain due to an error of locality.

Material examined

Casilda antophilaria (HÜBNER, [1813])

Puglia: S. Maria di Leuca, prov. of Lecce, Torre S. Giovanni, 10.IX.1988, leg. PROLA, 3 specimens (two belonging to the form *subrosearia* and one to *rosearia*); a male and a female from USSR without other data (Institute of Entomology, Padova); a male and a female from Rubas, USSR (Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg).

SUTTON [1964] considers *rosearia* the only subspecies of *C. antophilaria*, although he wrote "The true status of *rosearia* must await the collection of further material from the countries to the east of Greece. If it is a true subspecies the area of overlap with the eastern *antophilaria* forms should be small or absent. It shows no unique genitalia characteristic."

On this basis, SUTTON's suggestion "it seems probable that all these forms fly together over the greater part of the *antophilaria* range, and it may be that the species is polymorphic." should be taken very seriously, particularly in consideration of the fact that ssp. *rosearia* is syntopic and soncronic with other colour forms of *antophilaria*.

Mr. PROLA, for instance, collected it at S. Maria di Leuca together with two specimens belonging to the form *subrosearia*.

Casilda consecraria (STAUDINGER, 1871)

Sicilia: Torre Vendicari (SR), 25.III.1989, leg. A. ZILLI, 1 ♂

For Italy this species is recorded from Sardinia, as *Rhodometra intermediaria* TURATI, 1934; the latter is considered a colour form of *C. consecraria* (SUTTON, [1964]).

C. consecraria is new for Sicily.

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Explanation of colour plate XVIIa (p. 657)

- a) *Casilda consecraria* (Sicily)
 b) *C. antophilaria* (USSR)
 c) *C. antophilaria* f. *subrosearia* (USSR)
 d) *C. antophilaria* f. *subrosearia* (Puglia)
 e) *C. antophilaria* f. *rosearia* (Puglia)

a	
b	c
d	e

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RAINERI, V.. Some considerations about *Casilda antophilaria* (HÜBNER, [1813]) and *C. consecraria* (STAUDINGER, 1871) (Lepidoptera, Geometridae). – *Atalanta* **23**(3/4):619-622.

- a) *Casilda consecraria* (Sicily)
- b) *C. antophilaria* (USSR)
- c) *C. antophilaria* f. *subrosearia* (USSR)
- d) *C. antophilaria* f. *subrosearia* (Puglia)
- e) *C. antophilaria* f. *rosearia* (Puglia)

a	
b	c
d	e

Colour plate XVIIb

ZOLOTUHIN, V. V.: *Baodera* gen. nov. for *Trichiura khasiana* MOORE, 1879 (Lepidoptera, Lasiocampidae). – *Atalanta* **23**(3/4):491-493.

Baodera khasiana ♂



Colour plate XVII

